



Youth Ambassador Program with Haiti 2014 (YAP Haiti 2014)

Travel Dates: July 31 – August 21, 2014

*All materials submitted on Friday March 21, 2014
via email to: papculture@state.gov*

The Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP) is a U.S. Department of State opportunity for high school students from around the world to collaborate on solving global issues and gain firsthand knowledge of the United States. It is administered by the World Savvy organization and is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Youth Programs Division. Each year, the YAP brings foreign students together with U.S. students and educator participants of diverse backgrounds for a unique cultural opportunity to explore diverse issues, with an emphasis this year on climate change, through the lens of civic engagement and community action. Selected participants from Haiti will travel to the U.S. cities of San Francisco, California, and Washington, D.C. To find out more about the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, visit <http://exchanges.state.gov>. To find out more about World Savvy's programs and vision, visit www.worldsavvy.org.

Program Overview

The Youth Ambassadors Program for Haiti is a fully-funded inbound exchange program that joins 16 Haitian high school students and 2 educators with 8 U.S. students and 1 educator to study civic education, community service and leadership development. Over the course of three weeks, the group will participate in site visits, activities and curriculum focused on the environment and social entrepreneurship in San Francisco and Washington D.C.

During the first two weeks of the program, Haitian participants live with host families in the San Francisco Bay Area, and in week three, will travel together with the U.S. cohort to Washington, D.C. In both cities, the Youth Ambassadors visit local organizations that are addressing climate change, engage in leadership opportunities, and foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through dynamic workshops and project-based research.

By speaking with leaders in the field of environmental advocacy and social entrepreneurship, students learn firsthand how community organization can lead to local, national and global change, and are inspired to do the same through the development of Knowledge to Action project at home.

Program Objectives

- Promote shared learning, collaboration, and cooperative problem-solving between US high school students and educators and their peers from Haiti;
- Enhance student and educator knowledge and understanding of civic responsibilities, community engagement, and leadership in Haiti, the US, and globally through hands-on experiential learning exploring the environment and social entrepreneurship



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- Build student and educator skills for global citizenship, including leadership, dialogue, public speaking, problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, media literacy and research; help students and educators understand the rights and responsibilities associated with global citizenship;
- Empower students to become engaged in community and world affairs through volunteering and participation in civic associations;
- Foster relationships between youth and educators of different ethnic, racial, religious, and national identities and create a hemispheric network of youth leaders, within participating countries and internationally
- Build educators' capacity to teach global knowledge and skill development.

Youth and Responsibilities

Haitian student participants are crucial to the success of the program, and their active engagement and collaboration with other participants throughout the program makes the experience richer for all involved. Accepted students will be expected to assume the following roles and responsibilities:

- Submit all necessary forms and paperwork by designated due dates.
- Fully participation in the pre-travel orientations, and other preparatory work before the program, which will take place in the World Savvy Office.
- Participate fully in all activities throughout the trip, including group workshops, site visits, and participating in group discussions and projects.
- Upon return, share what you have learned with the community and implement the action project you developed over the course of the program. Successful completion of Knowledge to Action (K2A) project is critical to completion of the program itself.
- Complete follow-up evaluation and participate in debriefing sessions and potential reunions.

Who's Eligible?

Applicants are selected based on merit from a competitive and diverse pool of submissions. All participants must:

- Currently be a Haitian Citizen (Not holder of a green card or any other citizenship are not eligible)
- Commit to participating in all program activities including pre-trip orientations, group activities and visits every day from 9am – 5pm during the program dates, travel to Washington DC, and post-trip assignments and group gatherings
- (Students) Be between the ages of 15 and 18 (as of the program start date).
- Language proficiency: **Basic English.**
- Holder of a valid passport (at least one year of validity).

Who's NOT Eligible?

- Applicants are ineligible if: S/he has previously participated in any Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs-funded program within the past three years or if s/he has accepted a scholarship for an impending U.S. Government-funded exchange program. Should an applicant be accepted for more than one ECA-



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funded youth program in this timeframe s/he must choose between the programs and select only one program in which to participate?

- S/he is a family member (spouse or dependent child) of employees of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs- Youth Programs Division.
- S/he is a family member (spouse or dependent child) of employees of World Savvy or project partners who work on the AYLP.
- S/he is a family (spouse or dependent child) of employee of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti.

No Exceptions will be made to these requirements.

Participants of all backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to apply, and successful educator participants will come from a range of disciplines.

What kind of students are we looking for?

Our ideal candidates will possess the following qualities:

- An interest in international affairs;
- An interest in the U.S. and/or the theme of climate change/ environment.
- Strong academic skills, and/or a demonstrated pattern of improvement;
- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities;
- Ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and tolerate the opinions of others
- Demonstrated leadership skills in school or community;
- A commitment to their community, through volunteering or civic participation;
- A high degree of maturity, intellectual curiosity and strong communication skills; and
- A positive, patient and resilient attitude in new and unfamiliar situations, including learning from peers from a different background and culture, and an ability to withstand long days of activities and extended travel.
- A variety of personality types. If you are the vocal leader type, or a quiet observer, we want to create a cohort with a mix of strengths and personalities so that we can learn and grow from our similarities and differences.

Selection Process

N.B. Incomplete applications will not be considered for participation. We do not accept additional materials beyond those described in the application.

Individuals that make it past the initial application review by our panel will be contacted. An email will be sent to you via papculture@state.gov.

Due to large quantity of applications received, it is not possible to inform all applicants of their status. Thus, applicants can assume that they were not chosen if they have not been contacted by the U.S. Embassy in Haiti.